

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 03162 151056Z

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ACTION OS-03

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R 150958Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0173

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASCH, AFSP, HU

SUBJECT: STATUS OF TEACHERS AND PERSONNEL CEILING

REFS: STATE 152568 AND 150529; BUDAPEST 2794

1. ACTION REQUESTED: AUTHORITY TO INCREASE GOH EMBASSY PERSONNEL CEILING TO 46 INSTEAD OF TO 35 IN RETURN FOR RECIPROCITY.

2. IN MY CALL ON DEPUTY FONMIN NAGY TODAY, I MENTIONED NEED TO RESOLVE VISA STATUS OF TWO US TEACHERS. I SAID THAT SCHOOL WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO ME PERSONALLY BY NEXT YEAR AND THAT VISA MATTER APPEARED TO BE TECHNICAL PROBLEM WHICH COULD BE SETTLED ALONG PRACTICAL LINES. NAGY REPEATED GOH VIEW THAT STATUS COULD MOST BENEFICIALLY HAVE BEEN RESOLVED IF US HAD ISSUED OFFICIAL PASSPORTS TO TEACHERS (SEE BUDAPEST REFTTEL). I WENT OVER GROUND ABOUT TEACHERS NOT WORKING DIRECTLY FOR USG, AND THEREFORE WHY DEPT HAD NOT FOUND IT POSSIBLE TO ISSUE THEM OFFICIAL PASSPORTS. SUGGESTED THAT IF PRESENT LINES DIFFICULT, WE COULD ARRANGE FOR THEM TECHNICALLY TO BE RESIDENT IN VIENNA, AND THEY COULD BE GIVEN VISAS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF SOME BUSINESSMEN.

3. NAGY SAID THAT APPROACH NOT LIKELY TO WORK BUT HE THOUGH WE OUGHT TO FIND SOME WAY TO GIVE THEM STATUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BUDAPE 03162 151056Z

THAT WOULD HELP AVOID TAX, ARREST PROBLEMS, ETC. PERHAPS

WE COULD SEND FONMIN NOTE OR LETTER STATING THAT TEACHERS IN SOME WAY OFFICIALLY CONNECTED WITH EMBASSY AND THEY WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO ISSUE APPROPRIATE VISA EVEN IN REGULAR PASSPORTS. TEACHERS WOULD THEN HAVE SOME BETTER PROTECTION AGAINST LEGAL ACTION AND BE EXEMPT FROM TAXES AND NEED FOR WORK PERMITS. HE SAID THIS MIGHT RUN US INTO PERSONNEL CEILING PROBLEMS, BUT HE THOUGHT LIMITS WERE OUT OF DATE AND THEY MIGHT BE RAISED BY APPROXIMATELY 15 SLOTS. I SAID I HAD AUTHORITY TO INCREASE PERMISSIBLE NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND TO INCLUDE TEACHERS WITHIN THAT NUMBER. WE COULD NOT CERTIFY THEM AS EMPLOYEES OF USG, BUT EMBASSY WOULD WORK OUT WITH THEM LETTER ABOUT THEIR SERVICES FOR EMBASSY WHICH WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO SATISFY GOH NEEDS AND AT SAME TIME BE AMBIGUOUS ENOUGH TO MAINTAIN FOR OUR PURPOSES NON-USG STATUS FOR TEACHERS.

4. NAGY LATER REFERRED TO SMALLER SIZE INCREASE BUT CAME BACK TO FIFTEEN AS GOOD NUMBER TO INCREASE CEILING BY. HE SAID THEY WERE UNDER PRESENT CEILING AND COULD ACCOMMODATE NYC CONSULATE WITHIN 15, AND DID NOT FORESEE USING 15 NEW SLOTS, BUT IF WE WERE MAKING CHANGE WE MIGHT MAKE IT OF SUFFICIENT SIZE. WHEN I RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF ABOLISHING CEILING ALTOGETHER, NAGY SAID THAT THIS WOULD RAISE TOO MANY PROBLEMS WITH "OTHER AREAS OF GOVERNMENT".

5. WE BELIEVE MATTER WILL BE RESOLVED AS SOON AS WE CAN TELL THEM INCREASE TO 46 IS SATISFACTORY. AS I UNDERSTOOD IN WASHINGTON, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO REMOVE CEILING ENTIRELY, I TOLD NAGY I THOUGHT INCREASE WOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY.
PEDERSEN

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